

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NOUAKC 00519 181522Z

73

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-01 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 OMB-01 /105 W

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R 181330Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3519

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MR

SUBJECT: US GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES (GSP) AND EC
REVERSE PREFERENCE ISSUE

REF: (A) STATE 282967 OF 1974 (B) STATE 5868

(C) STATE 28219 (D) STATE 55671

SUMMARY: MAURITANIA HAS NOT FOCUSED ON FUTURE OF REVERSE PREFERENCES
VIS-A-VIS EC. EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED INFORMAL, VERBAL EXPRESSION
OF DESIRE FROM GIRM TO BE DESIGNATED BENEFICIARY DEVELOPING
COUNTRY (BDC) IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 502 (C) OF
1974 TRADE ACT. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 NOUAKC 00519 181522Z

1. ON JANUARY 18, EMBASSY FORWARDED THIRD PERSON NOTE TO FOREIGN

MINISTRY WITH COPY TO MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND TRANSPORT IN WHICH WE BROUGHT SECTION 502 (B) (3) OF TRADE ACT TO ATTENTION OF GIRM. EMBASSY ASKED IF MAURITANIA HAS ALREADY OR EXPECTS TO DISCONTINUE PRACTICE OF REVERSE PREFERENCES.

2. ON FEBRUARY 8, EMBASSY SUBMITTED THIRD PERSON NOTE TO FOREIGN MPDSTG WITH COPY TO MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND TRANSPORT IN WHICH WE BROUGHT SECTION 502 (C) OF TRADE ACT TO ATTENTION OF GIRM. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFS. (A) AND (C), EMBASSY REQUESTED RESPONSE BACWRITING IF GIRM WISHED TO BE DESIGNATED BDC. EMBASSY ALSO ASKED GIRM TO PROVIDE INFORMATION INDICATING THAT MAURITANIA WILL PROVIDE EQUITABLE AND REASONABLE ACCESS TO ITS MARKETS FOR AMERICANS.

3. AS EMBASSY DID NOT RECEIVE RESPONSE TO NOTES MENTIONED PARAS. (1) AND 2) ABOVE, CHARGE CALLED MARCH 18 ON DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE, HAMOUD OULD ELY, IN MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND TRANSPORT. ELY HAS ONLY BEEN IN JOB FOR THREE MONTHS AND, UNFORTUNATELY HE IS NOT FULLY CONVERSANT WITH TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THESE ISSUES.

4. AFTER EXPLAINING USG OPPOSITION TO REVERSE PREFERENCES AND WELCOMING FINAL AGREEMENT IN LOME CONVENTION WHICH ELIMINATES REQUIREMENT FOR REVERSE PREFERENCES AMONG ACP COUNTRIES (REF. D), CHARGE ASKED ELY FOR MAURITANIAN POLICY ON MATTER. ELY SAID MAURITANIA WILL FOLLOW LEAD OF OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. WHEN CHARGE NOTED THAT EVEN WITHIN YAOUNDE GROUP THERE MAY BE DIVERGENT POLICIES ON REVERSE PREFERENCES, ELY REPLIED THAT MAURITANIA WILL THEN MAKE DECISION ON BASIS OF RECIPROCITY. HE DID NOT DEFINE THIS STATEMENT MORE SPECIFICALLY, IT BEING APPARENT THAT HE WAS DEALING WITH UNFAMILIAR TOPIC.

5. ON QUESTION OF BDC DESIGNATION FOR MAURITANIA, ELY REPLIED FIRMLY THAT MAURITANIA WOULD WISH TO BECOME SO DESIGNATED. HE SAID FORMAL, WRITTEN RESPONSE COULD ONLY COME FROM MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TRANSPORT. HE PROMISED, HOWEVER, TO TAKE UP MATTER WITH MINISTER. (IF GIRM TRANSMITS FORMAL REPLY, EMBASSY WILL FORWARD IT TO DEPARTMENT).

6. COMMENT: IN COUNTRY LIKE MAURITANIA WHICH HAS FEW, PERHAPS NO, EXPERTS ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE, THIS IS DIFFICULT TOPIC TO DISCUSS IN SATISFACTORY MANNER. BELIEVE WE HAVE ASCERTAINED, HOWEVER, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 NOUAKC 00519 181522Z

THERE IS NO RPT NO REALISTIC POSSIBILITY THAT MAURITANIA WOULD REJECT BDC DESIGNATION.SHINN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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